

April 24, 1975

firemen who were opposed to the original proposal of this 418. I have yet to see those gentlemen down here this year excited about this bill. I know that it meets their requirements. They can live with it. Senator Barnett knows this. I move the previous question.

PRESIDENT: The question is, shall debate cease? Record your vote. Record.

CLERK: 31 ayes, 8 nays on motion to cease debate, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: Debate ceases. Senator Frank Lewis, will you close debate by way of reply?

SENATOR F. LEWIS: Mr. Chairman, let's put this in its proper perspective. 418 was not a bill that was brought before us by the clamoring of the volunteer firemen. I think they were given their choice. You are going to have a bill, they were told. Now, here, which do you prefer? Do you prefer one that will take all your clothes or just your shirt? So let's put it in the proper perspective. The volunteer firemen that were down here last year opposed any kind of bill but they were told they were going to get one. So let's get rid of the myth that the volunteer firemen say that this is a great thing and that they want to do it and it is something they needed and their programs were lousy and they weren't doing the job before and you have got to have the state government do it for you through one of their agencies. That is not true. The idea that it is an agreed bill and everybody agrees to it. Well based on the discussion I heard here this morning, it doesn't seem to be agreeable. There is still concern over who administers the training for this bill that they didn't want in the first place. There is still disagreement by the volunteer...by the paid fire department about the bill, which they didn't want in the first place. So what we have, we have a bill that nobody wants and nobody cares about, but we are going to pass it anyway and we can't even put it into an agreeable form for a bill for people that don't want it to start with. Now if that's not the damndest thing I ever seen I can't think of any other example. The bill is a mess. The bill is not satisfactory and I for one don't want to be on record for that type of a bill. Now I would propose to you that by bringing the bill back and striking the enacting clause, that might motivate people to put the bill in proper order. So I'd ask that you bring the bill back and strike the enacting clause and get the bill straightened out and get it right because those that have advocated there is total agreement and everybody loves it are pulling your leg.

PRESIDENT: The question is, shall the bill be returned for specific amendment, to strike the enacting clause? Record your vote. Record.

CLERK: 14 ayes, 27 nays on the motion to return, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: Motion fails. Read the bill.

CLERK: Engrossed LB 418.